



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Gerry Broderick, 3rd District

Chairman, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee

May 6, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager

414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

ALTERNATIVE SITE PROPOSED FOR UWM SCHOOL OF FRESHWATER SCIENCES

Downtown Transit Center location would allow for more green space along lakefront

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Gerry Broderick, Chairman of the County Board's Committee on Parks, Energy & Environment, is suggesting that the Downtown Transit Center could serve as one possible alternative location for the new UWM School of Freshwater Sciences and headquarters of the Milwaukee Water Council. The Transit Center is located directly across Lincoln Memorial Drive from Discovery World and immediately south of the Betty Brinn Children's Museum and O'Donnell Park.

The Transit Center's prominent location between the lakefront and downtown would allow it to serve as the signature building that the Water Council and School of Freshwater Sciences are seeking. "Currently, the Transit Center is greatly underutilized. It is possible that the building could be quickly adapted for use by the School and Water Council," Supervisor Broderick said. "I strongly support the concept of a School of Freshwater Sciences, but we must take a creative approach in identifying the best possible location."

"In my view, this solution is a win for all parties involved. This proposal is an opportunity to create more open space at the downtown lakefront and greatly improve the utilization of an existing building. The Transit Center site would also alleviate concerns related to building on the former Pieces of Eight site, which is subject to the public trust doctrine. Filled lakebed land, under that legal doctrine, must allow complete access by the public for uses directly connected to navigation or recreation," Supervisor Broderick added. "I don't see how a school and office building would meet that requirement."

###